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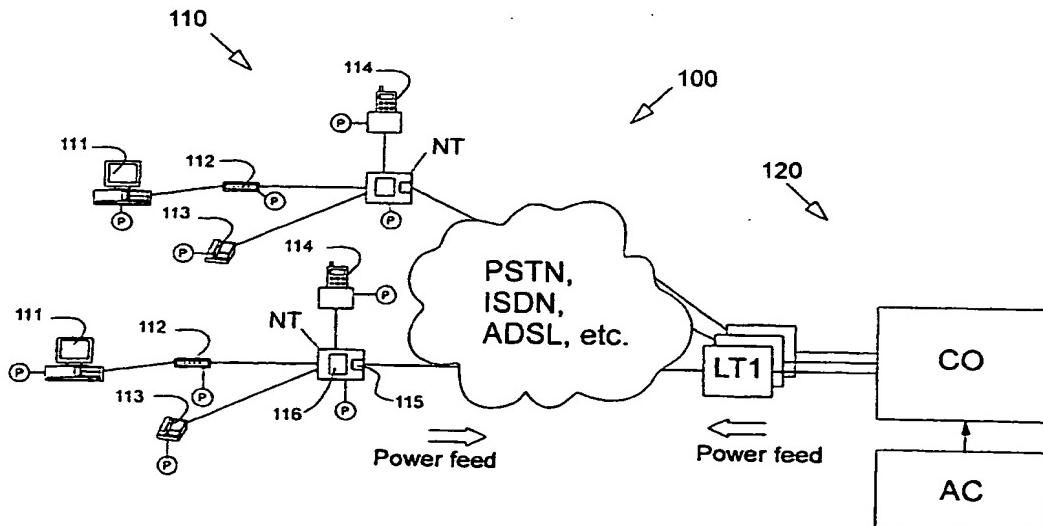
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: AN ARRANGEMENT AND A METHOD RELATING TO POWER SUPPLY IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK



WO 01/22716 A1

(57) Abstract: The present invention refers to a method and an arrangement for supplying power in a communications network (100) comprising subscriber side (110) and a provider side (120), said provider side being connected to nodes of said subscriber side through one or more Line Terminals (LT₁, ..., LT_n) and at least one equipment (111-114) at said subscriber side (110) being connected to said provider side (120) through at least one Net Terminal (NT). The arrangement comprises means for supplying power to said communications network (100) at least during a period of time through said at least one Net Terminal by means of said at least one equipment (111-114).

TITLE**AN ARRANGEMENT AND A METHOD RELATING TO POWER SUPPLY IN A
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

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TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method and an arrangement for supplying power in a communications network. The network comprises a subscriber side and a provider side. The 10 provider side is connected to the subscriber side through one or more Line Terminals and at least one equipment at the subscriber side can be connected to said provider side through at least one Net Terminal.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Telecommunication equipments and so-called access nodes tend to move closer to the user and subscribers of the telecommunication network. In the networks based on copper lines, there are provided natural locations for arranging the equipments, generally at the joining points of the conductors or distribution cabinets. Usually, at these points there are no line voltages, generally 20 of AC type, supplied. Supplying the line voltage to these points is usually not a major technical problem but it involves high costs, burdening partly subscription fees and partly the consumption charges. When the equipment moves closer to the subscriber, the number of the access nodes increases, which results in an accentuated problem.

25 Yet another problem is that the equipment requires some kind of backup unit, usually a battery backup, in case there are disturbances in the distribution of the line voltage.

Presently, more and more subscribers use Net Terminals at their site, which are powered by AC mains voltage or connect equipments powered by AC; Said Net Terminals besides telephones, 30 computers, modems etc. also include, for example battery-powered mobile telephones which are recharged through chargers connected to the mains voltage.

PRIOR ART

The prior art poorly discloses power supply to a network from a subscriber/client/user side, however, supplying some kind of devices in a network is known:

5

For example, WO 94/15424 relates to a system for providing voltage to a common line for a plurality of electrical units, each of which comprises a power supply unit for supplying power to electrical circuits of the electrical unit and to a common voltage line. A switch is provided between the power supply unit and the voltage line to be in such position while the power

10 supply unit is in operation that the power supply unit supplies power to said voltage line, and in another position while the power supply unit is not in operation, whereby at least some of the electrical circuits of the electrical unit take voltage from said common voltage line. The aim of this invention is to provide a reliable and accurate voltage supply to the common line and specially in telecommunications systems for providing auxiliary voltage to interface circuits of
15 plug-in units.

In EP-A2- 887 331 a data transmission system is used between a mobile source and a stationary or a mobile reception device, each provided with a data transmitter and receiver, a control and a memory and coupled to a sensor and/or actuator. When the normal energy supply for the
20 reception device, or the reception device and the sensor and/or the actuator fails, the operating energy may be provided by an energy transmitter and a cooperating energy receiver.

According to EP-A2-863 652, a media selection device is in functional parallel with an alternate local telephone network and an existing local telephone network. Upon detecting a
25 loss of local power, the device switches to the local exchange network based on the assumption that the local exchange network is operable, despite the loss of local power. While power is supplied to the device, originating calls are transmitted from the telephone to the device and to the alternate network. Incoming calls from the alternate network are transmitted to the device and to the telephone.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The main object of the present invention is to provide an arrangement, which enables supplying a communications network, preferably a telecommunications network and specially an access node with power, normally AC power, from at least one user or subscriber side.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an arrangement for supplying the communications network specially during power failures with power, whereby the need for battery backups is reduced or eliminated. Consequently, a need for costly large backup stations and related cost of maintenance are eliminated.

For these reason the initially mentioned communications network is supplied with power, at least during a period of time, through said at least one Net Terminal by means of said at least one equipment.

15

Said period of time is specially a power supply failure period and the Net Terminal comprises means to sense a power failure and means to switch power supply from subscriber side onto the network. Moreover, also the Line Terminal comprises means to sense a power failure and means to switch power supply from subscriber side.

20

Preferably, the equipment is one or several of modems, telephones, telephone battery recharges, facsimile apparatus, computers and/or power supply of them.

Advantageously, the subscriber location includes a local power backup.

25

In one embodiment the power supply is substantially continues. The communications network is one of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL),

30 in one embodiment, the arrangement is arranged to connect a mobile station of wireless communications network to said communications network when the mobile station supplies said communications network with power.

- According to a method for supplying power in a communications network comprising a subscriber side and a provider side, said nodes of provider side are connected to said subscriber side through one or more Line Terminals and at least one equipment at said subscriber side are connected to said provider side through at least one Net Terminal. The method comprises the
- 5 steps of supplying said communications network with power at least during a period of time through said at least one Net Terminal by means of said at least one equipment. It may also comprise the step of supplying power during a power supply failure period or substantially continuously.
- 10 To attract the subscribers to supply power to the network the method comprises creating an attraction value for a subscriber of the communications network to connect a device for supplying the communications network.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15

In the following, the invention will be further described in a non-limiting way with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

- 20 Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of a communications network employing the arrangement of the invention, and
- Fig. 2 illustrates a very schematic block diagram of a Net Terminal according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENT

25

A communications network 100 is illustrated in fig. 1, comprising a subscriber side 110 and a central office CO side 120. The CO is supplied with power from a power station AC, preferably AC mains voltage adapted to the CO and network needs.

- 30 The CO is connected to the network through Line Circuits or Line Terminal, LT_i (where i=1,2,...). The network may be any of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL),

etc.

The subscriber site 110 may comprise different types of communication devices, such as computer units 111 connected to the network through modems 112, telephone units 113, 5 mobile/cordless phones 114, fax machines etc. The connection to the network is provided through Net Terminals NT. Each equipment is provided with a power feed P, which may comprise AC or DC power supply.

According to the invention power is supplied to the network, and specially the nodes from the 10 NTs of each or all subscriber sites, instead of supplying power from the access nodes to the user nodes. In one embodiment of the invention the network is supplied with power from the subscriber site only if the main power supply of the network, i.e. AC at CO fails. In another embodiment the network is continuously supplied with power from the subscriber side. Of coarse the power from supplied to the subscriber equipments can be processed to adapt to the 15 network requirements, i.e. voltage level, current amperage, AC or DC voltage etc.

For this reason, each (or some) NT at subscriber site(s) is (are) provided with a detector 105, which detects a power failure at the node and a connection device 106, which redirects or connects power through the NT to the node. The detector may comprise any type of sensor 20 which detects a voltage or current reduction below a threshold value, examples of such sensors are opto-switches, transistors network, A/D-convertors with control units etc. Also, the connecting/redirection device may comprise any device, such as transistors, circuit breakers, relays, micro-switches etc., that upon receiving a signal from a control unit switch the power into a specific line.

25

An example of a NT arranged with the sensor 105 and connection device 106 is illustrated in fig. 2. However, it is obvious that the invention is not limited to this example and other arrangements as mentioned above may occur. The sensor 105 comprises a photo-diode 201, which emits a light when a current, in this case from the line connected to the node is passed 30 through it. The emitted light is detected by a second photo detector 202, which is arranged to generate a signal upon absent of the light emitted by the diode 201. The generated signal, i.e. due to power failure detected on the in LINE, couples the LINE to the power provided through

an equipment at the subscriber side, which feeds the node. Obviously, according to the second aspect of the invention where the network is continuously fed from the NT, sensors and connection means are unnecessary.

- 5 In the same way, the LTs at the provider side 120 can be provided with means to detect power failure and connection means to connect the power supplied from the subscriber side back to the CO and/or other LTs and thus other subscribers which do not have power supply or suffer from the power failure.
- 10 Through the present invention, the nodes of a communications network will be provided with several distributed power supply points. If the entire power mains fails, the power is fed through the subscribers equipment connected to the network, specially Net Terminals such as base stations of the wireless telephones (e.g. DECT: Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications) combined or provided with recharges and rechargers of the mobile telephone sets etc., may be equipped with the service according to the invention.
- 15 It is also possible to increase a subscriber's will to connect equipment for power supplying to the network, e.g. a subscriber of a mobile phone or the like, by providing the battery recharger of the mobile phone with a function, which also connects the mobile phone to the PSTN through telephone jack when it is recharged, to reduce the call fees.
- 20 Furthermore, as the battery backup at CO is eliminated or reduced, the overall costs of the network can be reduced and the subscribers may obtain a discount on the fees if they connect special equipments to feed the network.
- 25 In a large office block, the switching equipment may be provided with locally arranged battery backups which stores energy and supplies the network with the stored energy upon power failure.
- 30 The invention is not limited the shown embodiments but can be varied in a number of ways without departing from the scope of the appended claims and the arrangement and the method can be implemented in various ways depending on application, functional units, needs and requirements etc.

CLAIMS

1. An arrangement for supplying power in a communications network (100) comprising subscriber side (110) and a provider side (120), said provider side being connected to nodes of
5 said subscriber side through one or more Line Terminals (LT_1, \dots, LT_n) and at least one equipment (111-114) at said subscriber side (110) being connected to said provider side (120) through at least one Net Terminal (NT),
characterised in
that it comprises means for supplying power to said communications network (100) at least
10 during a period of time through said at least one Net Terminal from said at least one equipment (111-114).

2. The arrangement according to claim 1,
characterised in
15 that said period of time is a power supply failure period.

3. The arrangement according to claim 2,
characterised in
that said at least one Net Terminal comprises means (105) to sense a power failure and means
20 (106) to switch power supply from subscriber side.

4. The arrangement according to claim 2 or 3,
characterised in
that said at least one Line Terminal comprises means to sense a power failure and means to
25 switch power supply from subscriber side.

5. The arrangement according to any of preceding claims,
characterised in
that said at least one equipment is one or several of modems, telephones, telephone battery
30 recharges, facsimile apparatus, computers and/or power supply of them.

6. The arrangement according to any of preceding claims,
characterised in
that said subscriber location includes a local power backup (130).
- 5 7. The arrangement according to claim 1,
characterised in
that said power supply is substantially continues.
- 10 8. The arrangement according to any of preceding claims,
characterised in
that said network is one of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL),
- 15 9. The arrangement according to claim 1,
characterised in
that it is arranged to connect a mobile station of wireless communications network to said communications network when the mobile station supplies said communications network with power.
- 20 10. A method for supplying power in a communications network (100) comprising a subscriber side (110) and a provider side (120), said nodes of provider side being connected to said subscriber side through one or more Line Terminals (LT_1, \dots, LT_n) and at least one equipment (111-114) at said subscriber side (110) being connected to said provider side (120) through at least one Net Terminal (NT),
25 *characterised by*
supplying said communications network (100) with power at least during a period of time through said at least one Net Terminal by means of said at least one equipment (111-114).
- 30 11. The method according to claim 10,
characterised by
supplying power during a power supply failure period.

12. The method according to claim 10,
characterised by
supplying power substantially continuously.

5 13. The method according to any of claims 10-12,
characterised by
creating an attraction value for a subscriber of the communications network to connect a device
for supplying the communications network.

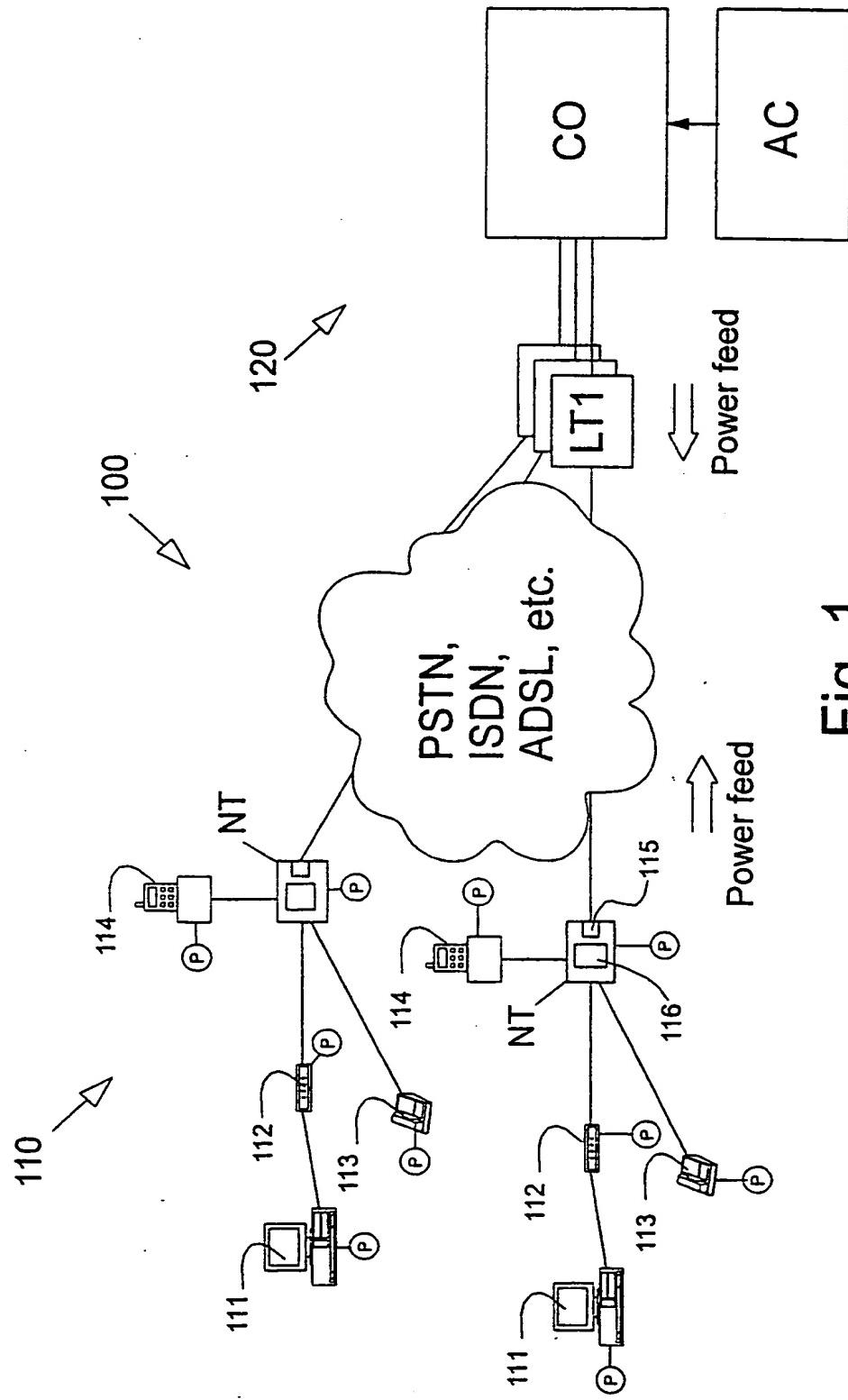


Fig. 1

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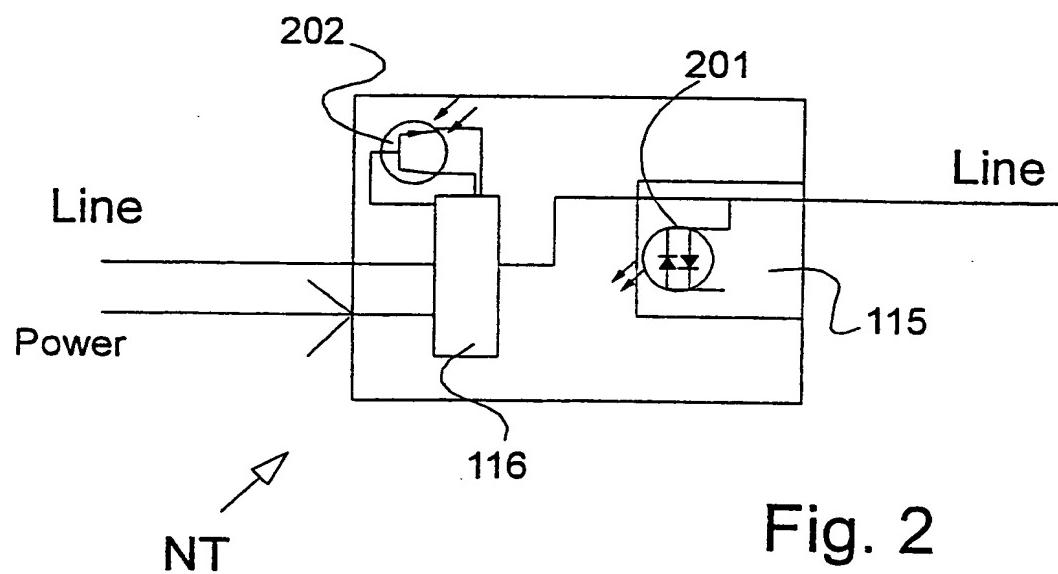


Fig. 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/SE 00/01858

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: H04M 19/08, H04L 12/10, H04B 3/54
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: H04M, H04L, H04B, H02J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9415424 A1 (NOKIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS OY), 7 July 1994 (07.07.94), page 1, line 4 - line 8; page 5, line 7 - page 6, line 32; page 9, line 27 - line 36, abstract --	1-13
A	DE 4437215 A1 (ALCATEL SEL AG), 25 April 1998 (25.04.98), figures 1,2, abstract -----	1-13

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

- * Special categories of cited documents
- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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